

# **Communicable Diseases Policy 2016**

## **Aims**

- A.** To minimise the spread of communicable diseases through the school community.

## **Scope and Application**

The following are considered communicable diseases for the purpose of this policy although this list is not exhaustive:

1. Chicken pox
  2. Measles
  3. Hepatitis
  4. Impetigo (school sores)
  5. Herpes (cold sores)
  6. Glandular fever
  7. Mumps
  8. Whooping cough
  9. Meningococcal C
  10. Ringworms
  11. Tuberculosis
- Blood borne diseases, such as Human Immune Deficiency Virus, are not covered by this policy because the requirement for exclusion is unreasonable. However, the school must be informed if the student has a serious disease that may be transferred to other people.
  - Common viruses, such as colds and vomiting, are not covered by this policy but precautions to minimise the spread of germs are relevant to them.
  - Head lice are not covered by this policy (see head lice policy).
  - Cold sores will be considered on a case by case basis.

This policy is available on the school website and is included in the staff induction.

This policy applies to:

- A.** Employees
- B.** Students
- C.** Parents
- D.** Community members
- E.** Visitors to the school

## **Immunization**

Whilst we acknowledge the right of parents not to immunize their children, in the event of a communicable disease outbreak, unimmunized students will be required to stay at home until threat of exposure to the disease has cleared.

## Principles

- A. Precautions will be taken to minimise the spread of germs through the school community, for example, individual cups and hygienic food preparation, serving and storage, and encouraging parents to keep sick children at home. Students will be informally educated about and reminded of these precautions.
- B. A health information file will be maintained and available to parents.
- C. Students affected by a communicable disease will be required to stay away from school until there is minimal danger of infecting other students, in the opinion of a doctor or the school Coordinator.
- D. If a student shows symptoms of a communicable disease, parents will be notified as soon as possible.
- E. In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease, non-immunized students will be required to stay at home.

## Responsibilities

### A. Council

- 1. Writing and updating this policy in consultation with relevant parties
- 2. Reviewing this policy and its procedures
- 3. Ensuring this policy is being implemented
- 4. Maintaining a safe school environment

### B. Coordinator

- 1. To ensure the student is cared for and isolated and a parent contacted
- 2. To ensure parents are clear about their responsibilities
- 3. To determine if a student with a communicable disease may come to school
- 4. To inform the school community of the occurrence of the disease.

### C. Administration Staff

- 1. It is the responsibility of the administrator to maintain an information file on communicable diseases.

### D. Teachers and staff

- 1. To report observed symptoms, which they think may indicate a communicable disease, to the Coordinator
- 2. To remind students of precautions that may be taken to avoid the spread of germs.

### E. Parents

- 1. To keep their child away from school if they have a communicable disease
- 2. To inform the school if their child has a communicable disease.
- 3. Provide the school with any known health information needed.

4. Providing the school with emergency contact numbers on their enrolment form.

#### **F. Students**

1. To inform their parent or teacher if they feel sick or notice any symptoms such as rashes or sores
2. To take care to avoid the spread of germs.

### **Related Legislation**

- A. See Policies and Procedures Guidelines for Schools, Compliance Issues, AISWA

### **Related Kerry Street Documentation**

- A. Health Information File
- B. Policies including:
  1. Duty of Care Policy
  2. Illness and First Aid Policy
  3. Head Lice Policy
  4. Emergency Procedures Policy
  5. Critical Incident Policy

### **Further Information**

- A. Communicable Disease Guidelines. 2005 Edition
- B. [www.population.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au)

### **Contact Person**

Any enquires relating to this policy should be directed to the School Coordinator.

### **Breaches of this Policy**

Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### **Attachments**

- A. Procedure
- B. Notification of Non Vaccination Form

### **Authorisation and Review**

- A. This policy was read, discussed, modified and endorsed by the staff on 1/12/04

- B.** It was authorised by the Kerry Street Community School Council on Feb 2005
- C.** Reviewed on 13/1/06 by meeting of staff and council
- D.** Review 13/9/13
- E.** Removed reference to conscientious objection to immunization 10/09/2016
- F.** To be reviewed November 2018

*Helen Sugars Duff*

**Communicable Diseases Policy 2016- Attachment A**  
**Procedure**

**When a student shows symptoms of a communicable disease at home parents will:**

1. keep the child at home until the symptoms are gone or the child is considered not contagious, in the opinion of a doctor or the school Coordinator and
2. inform the Coordinator as soon as possible; it is helpful to pass on any information, such as symptoms, incubation period, transmission of the disease and if there is the possibility of an emergency situation occurring.

**When a student shows symptoms of a communicable disease at school the Coordinator will:**

1. assess the urgency of the situation and act accordingly
2. care for and isolate the student
3. contact a parent and describe the symptoms and what action is required of the parent, explaining this policy
4. complete an incident report form.

**In both cases above, the Coordinator will pass all relevant information on to the school community as soon as possible.**

**Communicable Diseases Policy 2016- Attachment B**

**Notification of Non Vaccination Form**

**Kerry Street**  
**Community School**

20 Forrest Road,  
(Corner Kerry Street)  
Hamilton Hill WA 6163  
Phone: (08) 9335 1471  
Email:  
[kerrystreet@kerrystreet.wa.edu.au](mailto:kerrystreet@kerrystreet.wa.edu.au)  
Web: [www.kerrystreet.wa.edu.au](http://www.kerrystreet.wa.edu.au)

Notification of Non Vaccination

I \_\_\_\_\_ wish to advise that my child  
\_\_\_\_\_ is not vaccinated to the current Child Immunisation  
Schedule in Western Australia.

I understand in the event of an outbreak of any infectious disease, I will be required to  
keep my child at home until the threat of exposure to the disease has cleared.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Conscious Objection Exemptions are no longer valid in Australia for children under 7 years old as of  
01/01/2016*